



Start of [Irma Reich biographical notes].

AR 11504

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LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: <http://www.lbi.org>

AR 11504 1/1

[Irma Reich biographical notes], 2004

Kindly reference this cookbook
and create and connect to a
file in the archive.

This book is being donated
as a living memory of the
life saved from Nazi persecution.
It belonged to my mother,
Irma Reich, nee Hamburger.
I do not know many of the
details of my mothers youth.
What I do know I will share
here.

Irma Hamburger was born
on January 26, 1920 in
Furstenau bei Hanover, Germany.

Her parents were Henny (Yetchen)
and Alfred Hamburger.

nee Bachrach

-2.

She had two older brothers.

the oldest, Siegmund Hamburger
is alive at 93 years of age.

Her brother Herbert perished
by starvation along with her
parents in Auschwitz.

The family lived in a rural
part of Germany. They were
of simple means. Her father
was a cattle dealer. He had
served Germany as a soldier
in World War I.

I do know that he took
such pride in having fought
for his country that he thought
no harm would come to

him because he had been a
loyal country man.

My mother spent a brief time
away from her small town +
lived with a family in Hamburg.
She then returned home after
about a years time away to
live a very abnormal adolescent
time. She no longer could
continue going to school
since she was Jewish.

Her best friend "Ludia"
now looked at her and then
spit on the street because
- "she was Jewish". -

So at a time when she was
supposed to be developmentally

-1

branching out from the nest
her pattern became abnormally
reversed. She spent all her time
at home with her mother and
sick brother. Herbert had
epilepsy. At that time,
in Germany it was a very
shameful thing. It was
something that was concealed
from others as much as possible.
Unlike today where it is considered
an illness, it was then likened
to some form of madness.
This in turn reflected poorly on
family members.

Tragically, this cookbook



Was given by my grandmother
to her daughter (along with
a photo or two) as a keepsake
to cherish as Irma was
Sent out from her home
at 19 to flee to England.

Her brother, Siegmund had already
left Germany before so that
he could attempt to make a
living which was no longer
possible in their part of Germany
as Jews.

The bright side of this
story is that this young woman
who survived by first becoming
a housekeeper at 19 yrs. of
age and then moved on to

Working day after day at a sewing machine in a factory doing piece work ended up creating a normal family life for herself.

She grew tired of endlessly having to go into the bomb shelters at all hours of the night in London during air raids.

She took all her courage and with the help of her brother, Siegmund who by that time was working in the jewelery business in South America - procured a visa.

She told me she wanted to leave England no matter what difficulties she had

to surmount.

There were mines in the ocean.
Yet she managed to charm her way
to get the papers she needed to
get on a steamship and cross
those perilous waters. She left
bombed out London behind.

As a young woman now in her
twenties she traveled alone
and finally reached South America.
There she was told she didn't
have the right documents. But,
with some luck and some savvy
she managed to make contact
through her brother with someone
that was able to convince the
authorities that she should be
permitted to enter the country

Yet another language to negotiate
German, to English now Spanish.

From here on in this young
immigrant womans luck would
change. She was reunited with
her sole remaining relative.

She lived together with Siegmund.
She helped him in his jewelery
store. Nice shiny expensive
items to now be surrounded with.
No more rags and factory work.

Now Irma had someone to help
do her household chores. She
went on horseback riding excursions.
They socialized.

In 1948, Irma followed in her
brothers path. He was to marry a

Woman that wanted to live in New York. So, Irma once again settled in a new country — America.

She moved in with a very kind German speaking Jewish woman, Mrs. Kahn in Washington Heights. Mrs. Kahn's observant family the Nussbaum's took a liking to her and befriended her.

Shortly, after she took a short course to work as a beautician. Her single regret in life was that she never was able to complete her education. Here was a bright woman reduced to doing very unskilled jobs. She worked in a hair salon for a brief time when as luck would have it

70

She met a kindhearted German Jewish man, named Martin Reich. Martin Reich was 20 years her senior. He had been in this country for several years.

He was smitten with the young woman, Irma who he met in Spritzer's Restaurant on Broadway and 176th Street.

Irma Hamburger married Martin Reich in the Rabbi's Study on Dec. 22nd 1948.

On Sept. 12th 1949 - they had a daughter. Their only child - Suzanne Evelyn Reich.

8

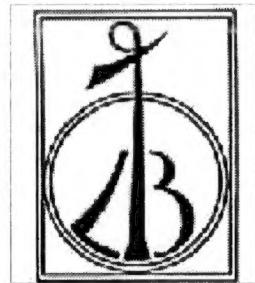
Irma and Martin raised me in a very loving Jewish home.

I went on to marry Robert Schaps. Our children, Stephanie (married to David Luftig) and Alissa now continue to safeguard their Jewish values and upbringing.

Despite the fact that many in our family lost their lives simply because they were Jewish - we have created new Jewish families and our pride continues.

Friday, Dec. 3rd, 2004
Scarsdale, New York

- Suzanne Reich Schaps



**End of [Irma Reich biographical
notes].**
